

Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 9-12 and 17, cancel claim 8, and add new claims 21-30 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing group finances for a group that includes a plurality of group members via an electronic network, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a group fund corresponding to at least one shared expense of the group;

receiving transaction details from a member of the group via an electronic network, said transaction details describing a group expense and identifying at least one of the plurality of group members responsible for said group expense;

assigning said transaction details to said group; and

allocating a ~~payment~~ said group expense specified by said transaction details among group members of said group.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the steps of repeating said receiving, assigning, and allocating steps for a plurality of transactions.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the steps of balancing finances of said group.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said balancing step includes the steps of:

rounding up an original expense value to a new expense value having a predefined number of decimal places; and

distributing a difference between said new expense value and said original expense value to a third party.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises acquiring transaction details which include a shared expense containing an expense amount and at least one group member responsible for said expense.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises acquiring transaction details which include remuneration details from a group member.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises acquiring allocation details dividing financial obligations of said group among said group members.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said establishing step comprises the steps of:

acquiring group fund details; and

storing said group fund details in a group fund database.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said allocating step includes the steps of:

debiting said group fund with an expense specified in said transaction details; and

allotting said expense among said group members in a manner specified in said transaction details.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said allocating step includes the steps of:

crediting said group fund with remuneration specified in said transaction details; and

allotting said remuneration among said group members in a manner specified in said transaction details.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said method further comprises the step of settling said group fund via said electronic network.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said settling step comprises the step of accepting electronic deposits into said group fund.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said accepting step comprises collecting a credit card electronic deposit into said group fund.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said accepting step comprises collecting an electronic check deposit into said group fund.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said settling step comprises the step of transferring funds from said group fund to a financial institution account of a group member.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said method further includes the step of emailing group members to notify them of their outstanding balance in said group fund.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step includes the step of receiving said transaction details from a form appearing in a web page.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said allocating step further includes the step of generating a web page interface with a form reporting allocated expenses.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step includes acquiring an authorization of said payment from said group members.

21. (New) A method as described by claim 1 wherein said group expense described in said transaction details corresponds to the purchase of one of goods or services.

22. (New) A method as described by claim 1 wherein said at least one shared expense of the group that said group fund corresponds to corresponds to a future purchase of one of goods or services.

23. (New) A method as described by claim 1 wherein said transaction details describe a payment made by at least two members of the group on behalf of the group.

24. (New) A method as described by claim 1 and further including the step of charging a group member interest for paying said group fund late.

25. (New) A method as described by claim 1 and further including the step of determining that a group member has made an early payment and paying said group member interest on the amount of the payment until said payment is due.

26. (New) A method as described by claim 1 and further including the step of determining that one group member is delinquent in paying his share of a group expense and removing said one group member from said group.

27. (New) A method as described by claim 1 and further including the step of determining whether one member of the group would like to ask other members of said group to settle up, and if so to contact said other members via the electronic network to settle up.

28. (New) A method as described by claim 1 wherein said transaction details describe an amount paid by at least two of the group members on behalf of the group.

29. (New) A method as described by claim 1 wherein said transaction details specify a plurality of, but not all of, the group members to assign said transaction to.

30. (New) A method as described by claim 1 and further including the step of determining when any of the group members owes more than a predetermined amount of money, and subsequently reminding said any of the group members via e-mail to settle up.